

**ANTONIA NOVELLO, M.D., M.P.H., Dr.P.H.**  
**Term: 2005**

Antonia Coello Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr.P.H. was nominated by Governor George E. Pataki to be the thirteenth New York State Health Commissioner on June 3, 1999. The nomination was confirmed by the New York State Senate on June 15, 1999. With the appointment, Dr. Novello heads one of the leading public health agencies in the nation. She is responsible for a \$30 billion budget, the largest of any New York State agency and over one-third the total of the entire New York State budget. Dr. Novello also heads an agency which includes four health care facilities (with a fifth in the construction phase), two regional offices and field offices, nine district offices as well as the central office, located in Albany.

Prior to being appointed as the New York State Health Commissioner, Dr. Novello previously served as the 14<sup>th</sup> Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service and was sworn in by Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor on March 9, 1990. Her appointment marked two firsts: Dr. Novello became the first woman and the first Hispanic ever to hold this position. As surgeon general, Dr. Novello advised the public on health matters, such as smoking, AIDS, diet and nutrition, environmental health hazards, and the importance of immunization and disease prevention. She also directed the activities of the 6,100 members of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

Dr. Novello was born in Fajardo, Puerto Rico. She graduated from the University of Puerto Rico with a B.S. degree in 1965 and an M.D. degree in 1970. Dr. Novello served her pediatric internship and residency at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (1970-1973), where she was selected intern of the year (1970). She completed her subspecialty training in pediatric nephrology also at the University of Michigan (1974) and at Georgetown University (1975).

Dr. Novello is the recipient of numerous awards and honors including Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Medallion and Medal; USPHS Distinguished Service Medal; the U.S. Army Legion of Merit; the US Coast Guard Meritorious Medal; the US Department of the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award; the American Medical Association Nathan B. Davis Award; the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Medal; the Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars Award and the University Alumni Association's Woodrow Wilson Award for Distinguished Government Service; the Elizabeth Blackwell Award; the University of Michigan Medical Center Alumni Award & Alumna Council Athena Award; the Public Health Service Commissioned Officer's Association Health Leader of the Year Award; the Ellis Island Medal of Honor; the Elizabeth Ann Seton Award; the Charles C. Shepard Science Award for Scientific Excellence; the American Medical Women's Association Leadership Award; the National Council of La Raza President's Award; the National Council of Alcohol and Drug Dependency Golden Key Award; American Academy of Pediatrics Excellence in Public Service Award; Healthy American Fitness Leaders Award; the National Women's Hall of Fame; Ronald McDonald Children's Charities Award of Excellence; Hispanic Hero Award; Miami Children's Hospital International Hall of Fame; Women at Work Science Award.